

Chair Lazich and Committee Members:

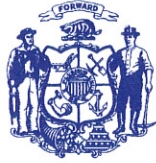
Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 367. The purpose of this bill is to prevent people from intentionally signing recall petitions twice in an effort to get the minimum number of signatures necessary to recall a candidate in the state of Wisconsin.

It has become apparent during the current recall effort that the Government Accountability Board is not certain that such behavior is illegal. On December 8th, the GAB director Kevin Kennedy stated in an interview that inflating the number of recall petition signatures by repeatedly signing could constitute fraud, but since had backed away from such a position. Obviously, signing a recall petition twice, like voting twice, distorts our political process.

This bill makes signing two recall petitions a misdemeanor. Other violations of election law are felonies. This bill unlike Assembly Bill 441 does not make signing a recall petition more than once a felony because felonies can permanently damage a person's employment prospects. Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 367.

Thank you,

Senator Glenn Grothman
20th Senate District



DUEY STROEBEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH DISTRICT

January 12, 2012

Dear Chairwoman Lazich and fellow committee members,

Thank you for holding this hearing today so I can testify in support of Senate Bill 367 (SB 367).

Recalling an elected official is a serious matter and must not be treated in a cavalier manner. Since current law did not anticipate the notion of people signing a recall petition more than once, it has opened the door to activities that are wrong and contrary to our nation's basic principle of "one person, one vote". Specifically, in recent weeks individuals have loudly and proudly proclaimed that they signed the recall petitions more than once—and in some cases dozens of times.

These individuals are fraudulently inflating the numbers of signatures without consequence. With the burden of challenging duplicative and fraudulent signatures placed on the incumbent office—and with the small window of time given for review—it is extremely difficult to validate every single signature in order to determine its legitimacy.

Furthermore, as the courts have rightly held that some degree of due diligence also applies to the Government Accountability Office (GAB) in regards to these signatures, this illegitimate practice also wastes the time and financial resources of state government and its taxpayers.

Because of that, I support SB 367. Wisconsin has seen a wave of recalls this session, and this bill will immediately send a strong message that corrupting the system is simply unacceptable. People can sign once, and only once, during the same 60-day circulation period. This needs to be written on top of petition forms, voiced from petition circulators, and written into law. Clarity on this issue is much-needed to ensure legitimacy and fairness.

Ultimately, this is important legislation that addresses fraud that is currently taking place and will continue to take place unless action is taken, and SB 367 is that action.

Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Duey Stroebel